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CA 2418639 A1 2004/08/14

(21) **2 418 639**

(12) **DEMANDE DE BREVET CANADIEN  
CANADIAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(13) **A1**

(22) Date de dépôt/Filing Date: 2003/02/14

(41) Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.: 2004/08/14

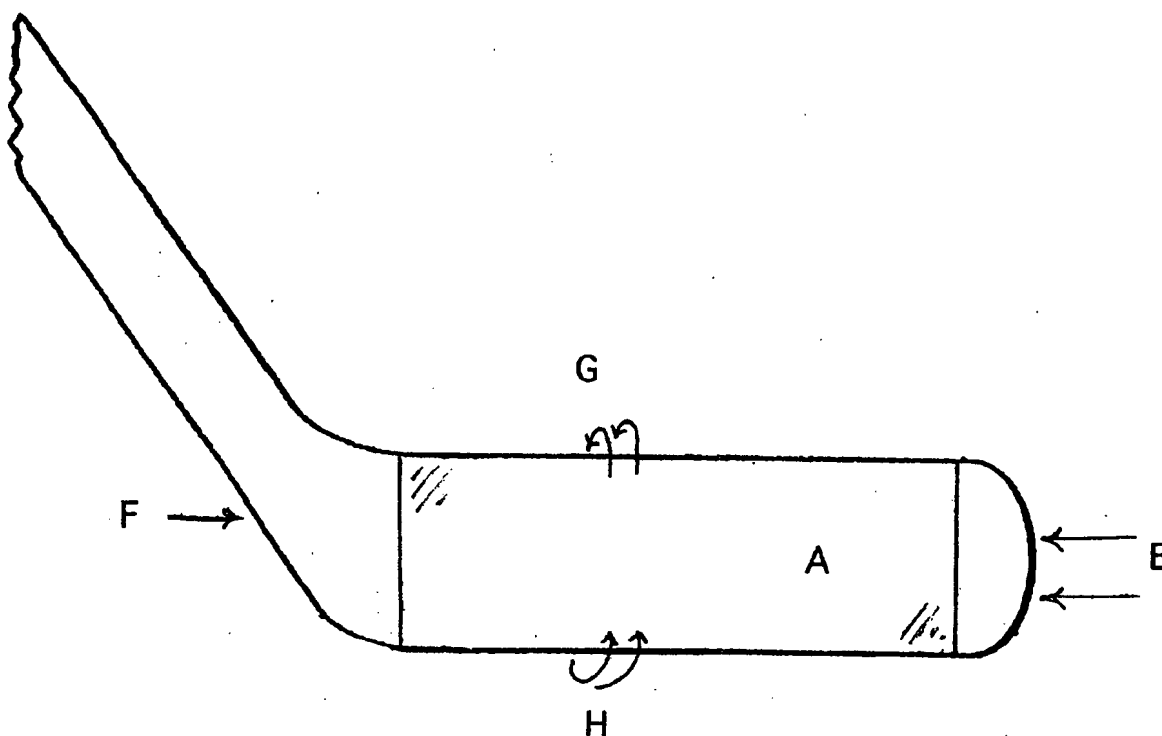
(51) Cl.Int.<sup>7</sup>/Int.Cl.<sup>7</sup> A63B 59/14, A63B 71/02

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(54) Titre : NOUVEAU RECOUVREMENT POUR CROSSE DE HOCKEY

(54) Title: ALTERNATIVE HOCKEY BLADE WRAP



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

This invention transcends conventional hockey tape to stretch over the blade of the hockey stick, as opposed to wrapping the blade. The stretchable fabric material is fashioned in the form of a continuous tube; and can be cut to any desired length to snugly encompass the surface required by the user. There is a backing material on the inner surface of the tube that will serve to cling to the surface of the blade to prevent slipping without bonding. The product will be available in several different colors, with or without graphics.

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OPIC • CIPU 191

8/14/07, EAST Version: 2.1.0.14

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**ABSTRACT**

This invention transcends conventional hockey tape to stretch over the blade of the hockey stick, as opposed to wrapping the blade. The stretchable fabric material is fashioned in the form of a continuous tube, and can be cut to any desired length to snugly encompass the surface required by the user. There is a backing material on the inner surface of the tube that will serve to cling to the surface of the blade to prevent slipping without bonding. The product will be available in several different colors, with or without graphics.

**DISCLOSURE**

This invention relates to a protective, removable covering for blades of hockey sticks.

It is common practice for hockey players to tape the blade of their hockey sticks with tape consisting of a cotton fabric material containing an adhesive backing. The tape is systematically wound around the blade, overlapping to the desired length to form a unitary protective covering. Players find wrapping their blades necessary to provide them with better control of the hockey puck (i.e. to prevent the puck from slipping), as well as to protect the blade from repeated contact with the puck. The application and removal of conventional hockey tape is, however, very time consuming. Great care must be taken in the application of the tape to ensure that the proper pressure and consistency is applied in the wrapping process. The tape must be applied tightly and evenly for optimal playing results. Improper application can result in unfavorable gaps and uneven coverage of the blade. Removal of the tape requires that the player either methodically unwind the tape (which can be a source of frustration), or cut the tape from the blade with a sharp object (which can result in damage to the blade).

I have found that these disadvantages may be overcome with the use of tensor bandage material that is prefabricated in the shape of a tube. Stretchable fabric is cut to the desired length, and pulled or slid to the desired position on the blade. A backing on the material prevents slippage during play, and the size of the material enables it to fit firmly and snugly over the blade. Application and removal of the material is a one-step process, and requires very little time to complete. The unitary composition of the material eliminates gaps and uneven coverage. There is no risk of damage to the blade during the removal process, as it is easily pulled off without the use of tools.

In drawings which illustrate embodiments of the invention, Figure 1 is the embodiment of the invention as it appears before being placed on the hockey stick blade; Figure 2 demonstrates the invention in place on the front blade of the hockey stick blade as it would be utilized in play; and Figure 3 demonstrates a view of the invention in place on the back panel of the hockey stick blade as it would be utilized in play.

The invention is prefabricated into a cylindrical shape, as illustrated in Figure 1. A stretchable fabric A comprises the outer area of the invention. The inner area of the invention is ready-made with a non-adhesive backing B. The invention may be cut to any

length that the user desires C, or may be cut at lines that have been pre-indicated in the fabrication of the invention.

In Figure 2 (blade front panel view) and Figure 3 (blade back panel view), the invention A is pulled E over the blade of the hockey stick F. The invention encircles G, H all panels of the blade.

**CLAIMS**

*The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:*

1. A covering for the blade of a hockey stick, characterized by a stretchable fabric material with a blade-securing backing, that is prefabricated into a continuous tube uniformly covering the front, rear, top and bottom panels of the blade without the use of a bonding substance as a backing; wherein said fabric is cut to any desired length.
2. A blade covering as defined in claim 1, wherein said material contains prefabricated marks for the cutting of the material with an apparatus.
3. A blade covering, as defined in claim 2, wherein cut-marks are perforated or otherwise ingrained into the fabric for the removal of any piece of the fabric without the use of an apparatus.
4. A blade covering, as defined in claim 1, wherein the fabric is prefabricated in set lengths to be applied to the blade of a hockey stick without the use of a cutting apparatus.
5. A hockey stick having a blade with opposed faces, said blade having a protective wrap on said opposed faces, characterized in that said wrap comprises:  
A stretchable fabric material with a blade-securing backing uniformly covering the front, rear, top and bottom panels of the blade, wherein said backing is comprised of a substance that is not bonding.

Figure 1

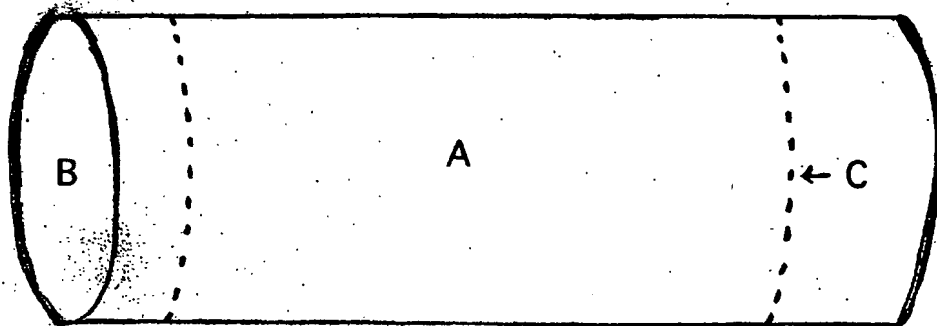


Figure 2

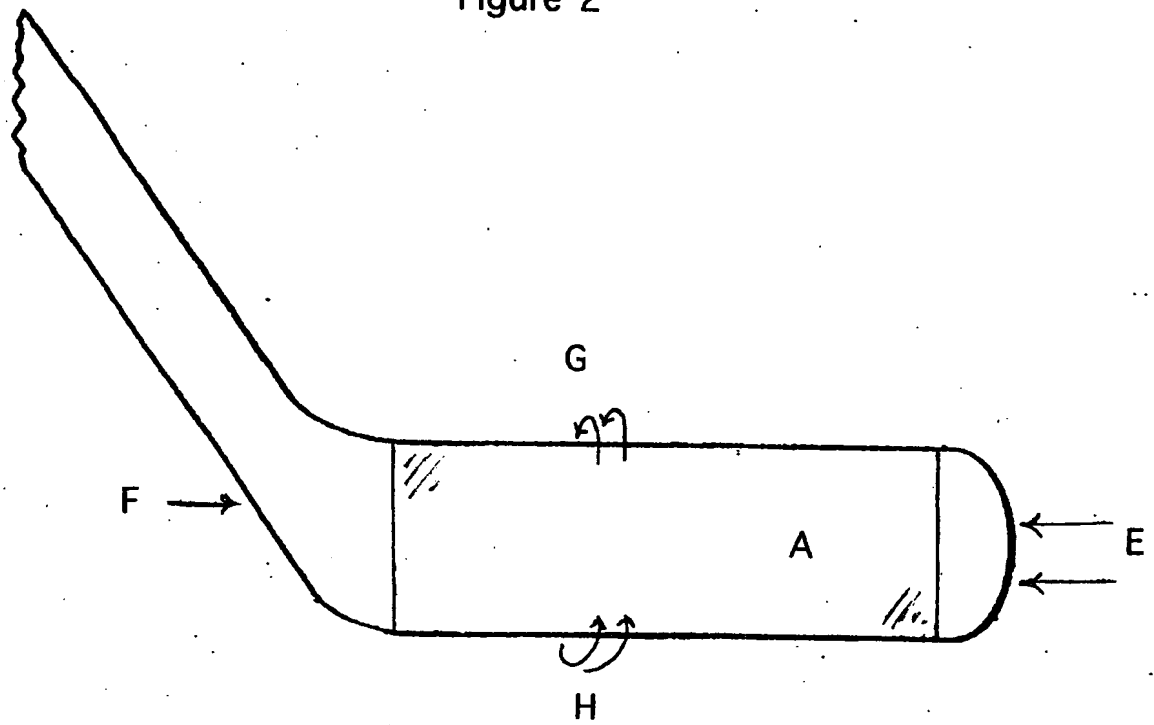


Figure 3

